

62 March 9. 1813.

An Inaugural Dissertation

#8

on

Appley.

For the Degree

of

Doctor of Medicine.

Submitted to the examination

of the

Provost, Trustees, and Medical Professors,

of the

University of Pennsylvania.

1813.

B. Wistar

No 62



## Aphoplexy.

The following history of Aphoplexy, I have drawn up from the Lectures of the Professor of the Institutes. Beware of the correctness and utility of his observation on this disease (and on diseases in general) I have taken this history from him, with the view of impressing the subject firmly on my mind, and at the same time to comply with the rules of this University.

Did the laws of the University compel the Candidate to present a Dissertation wholly original, I should indeed be at a loss for a subject, since the present Professors have laboured so much, with a view to the perfection of Medicine.

I am proud to acknowledge the debt I owe to the Professor of the Institutes. That Model of Wisdom, Solomon, it is said, gave the following piece of advice, "Walk in the paths,

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of wise Men,<sup>2</sup> sensible of the beneficial tendency of this  
stuolence, I feel as if the good Solomon accompanied  
me, and in addition to the foregoing; observed, *Stay not  
thou from the paths of Right.*

Apopplexy, has been divided by Cullen  
into the Sanguineous, and the Serous. The former species  
Cullen supposed, depended upon an extravasation of  
Blood, the latter, upon an effusion of Serum in the  
brain. There can be no necessity for this distinction,  
for Apoplexy will be Apoplexy, from whatever causes  
induced. It would be impossible for the Physician to  
know, and if he did know, of no importance, whether  
whether the disease arose in consequence of Blood or Serum.  
In either case the remedies would be the same, and  
therefore the distinction must be entirely useless.  
Like many of the Nosological diseases, (if this distinction  
was admitted) we would be obliged to await  
the death of the Patient, and then dissec his

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Brain, in order to ascertain whether the disease  
was owing to Blood or Serum.

Professor Rush has arranged Apoplexy  
under the head of, Diseases which affect the Nerves,  
Muscles, Brain, and Mind, in common with the  
Blood-vessels. Apoplexy has been defined, that disease  
in which the external and internal Senses, and the  
powers of voluntary Motion, are in some degree  
abolished, while the Function of the Heart, Arteries,  
and Lungs, continue to be performed. This disease  
may be distinguished from Palsy (which is a lower  
grade of Apoplexy) by its affecting all the powers  
of Sense and voluntary Motion, at the same time.  
It is likewise distinguished from Syncope, by  
the continuance of Respiration, and the action  
of the Heart.

and the rest of the  
people began to be  
afraid of the people who  
had been sent to them, and  
they were afraid to go out  
of their houses, and the  
people who had been sent  
to them said to them, "We  
are here to tell you that  
the God of your fathers  
has sent us to you to  
make you know that you  
are his people, and that  
he has chosen you to be  
a people for himself, and  
that you should not be  
afraid of the people of  
the land, for I will be  
with you, and I will  
drive out the people  
of the land before you,  
and I will give you  
the land for an inheritance,  
and I will be your God,  
and you shall know that  
I am the Lord your God,  
who has brought you  
out of the land of Egypt,  
to give you the land  
of Canaan for an  
inheritance, and I will  
be your God."

The Sump of apoplexy, is known from common Sump, by its coming on more suddenly, being more profound, and more generally attended with Snoring. There is usually a relaxation of the Sphincters of the Anus, and Bladder, whilst the peristaltic motion of the Bladder continues.

The Patient is sometimes attack'd suddenly, but most frequently, the fit is preceded by some of the following symptoms; viz. Elevated excitement, Snoring, in Persons, unaccustomed to it. Trousing, Giddiness. Numbrness in one or both arms, or sides. dull and false vision, Clouding over the eyes.

Absence of Piles or Gout, in Persons affected with them. The Face becoming suddenly flushed, the blood is suffused over the whole Face, of a dark red colour. This last symptom, constitutes the disease to which Doct Rush has given the name

and the same in the middle of the  
country will grow, because there are  
so many small trees and shrubs growing there  
as will be probably be introduced in  
most of the other islands. It will  
be more or less as the Dr. Parry's  
observations would be. The following is  
a general idea of what may be found in  
the islands, but as far as I have not  
seen the observations, I have not  
done so much as to make a list of  
the species found, because very  
few of the species have been  
seen in the islands, and those that  
have been seen have not been  
described, and therefore it is not  
possible to make a list of them.

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of Facial Apoplexy.

These symptoms continuing for a longer or shorter time, the Patient becomes suddenly deprived of the power of voluntary Motion, and of the use of his Senses. He at length falls down, the breathing is noisy and stertorous, the countenance generally flushed, though sometimes pale, the Pupil of the eye is dilated, foaming at the Mouth, grinding the teeth &c. The disease very frequently terminates in Paralysis, or the Patient is seized with vomiting, and after a profuse perspiration, recovers the power of his Mind &c. The pulse during the continuance of the fit is either Synocha, depraved, Intermittent or Slow. It has been observed to beat but 7 or 8 strokes in a minute. This slowness of the pulse is more dangerous than quickness.

the 20th and 21st of January, with  
a short interval of 24 hours, and  
was intended to continue until the  
23rd, but the weather was so  
bad that it was suspended on  
the 21st, and the 22nd was  
spent in the same place, with  
a short interval of 24 hours, and  
was intended to continue until the  
23rd, but the weather was so  
bad that it was suspended on  
the 21st, and the 22nd was

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Apoplex sometimes occurs without shewing any premonitory symptoms, and when it does, it very generally proves fatal, in consequence of a rupture of a blood-vessel in the Brain.

The Remote causes of Apoplexy, are, excessive exercise of the Understanding. Intemperance in eating and drinking. Insolation, or what is usually termed, a Stroke of the Sun. Apoplexy from the last mentioned cause, is unknown in climates which are uniformly warm; at least it does not occur in the natives of such countries.

The exciting causes of Apoplexy, are very numerous, among which are the following; Violent exercise of the whole body. Loud speaking. The impure air of crowded houses, as Churches, Theatres &c. Tight ligatures about the neck, in the form of Cravats. Intoxication. Stoppage of periodical



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Hemorrhage. Fumes of Mercury, Lead &c. Violent Impressions of the mind. To illustrate this, Doctor Rush has related a case of a German cobbler, in this city, who was greatly irritated by some boys, blowing the smoke of tobacco, through the key-hole of his shop. The cobbler pursued them, without catching any one, they began to tantalize him, he became highly enraged, and fell dead in an Apoplexy.

Cold feet. Doctor Rush, mentions two cases of the disease from cold feet. Overloading the Stomach at supper. Electricity. Sleeping on a wet floor. Smoking tobacco. Doctor Rush mentions two cases of Apoplexy from this cause. It is induced by fevers, more especially of a Malignant kind. It is recorded that in the year 1749. Apoplexies



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were Epidemic in Paris. Congestion, of Blood or Water in the Brain. When the disease arises from extravasated Fluid, in the brain, the second fit is generally said to prove fatal.

The Remedies for the Forming State of the disease (when there is drowsiness, giddiness, dull and false vision swelling of the Face and Neck) are, Bleeding. The Patient should loose ten or sixteen ounces of blood, and take some purging Medicine, with a view to prevent the coming fit. Doctor Darwin subscribes to the efficacy of this remedy, he often bled himself whilst riding in his carriage, and thereby arrested the approaching fit. Rest and a purge when these symptoms arise from exercise, blood-letting should be preferred. As this disease always shews a tendency to return, the Patient should avoid, as much as possible the remote and exciting cause.



When the disease has formed, and we are called to the patient, the apartment should be cleared of all unnecessary attendants, for impure air is very injurious to persons labouring under Apoplexy. Ligatures, bandages, and clothes, boots or shoes should be removed from the body. The head of the patient is to be elevated, and care should be taken that no officious attendant applies any volatile substance to the nose, or make use of friction to any part of the body. Blood should then be immediately taken from one or both arms, or from the Temporal Artery, if the pulse be not depressed. When Apoplexy arises from Con-  
tusion blood-letting should be prompt, and copious, for if Congestion has not already taken place in the vessels of the head, bleeding will prevent it.



If the Pulse be Slow, Apathetic, or Intermittent, the Riverian method of bleeding should be employed. Doctor Rush supposes, that Leeches applied up the Nose would prove beneficial. This would no doubt be of great service, as it accords so well with the Riverian Method.

In this state of Apathy, profuse bleeding, would be highly injurious; we should therefore take away blood gradually. A vein must be opened and a few ounces of blood taken, tie it up - wait until the Pulse rises, when it does, open the vein again, take another small quantity, and by this way of proceeding, you will give the system time to arouse, and react. A sharp pointed body such as a quill, has been thrust up the nostril in order to rupture a vesel, and produce hemorrhage. This has often done great service.



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When Apoplexy arises from Worms, or from any poisonous substance in the Stomach, Vomiting should be excited, and will always be useful by removing such substances. Vomiting may be excited by irritating the throat with a feather. Bloodletting should, however, in all instances precede the use of Vomits. The bowels should be opened by the use of large doses of purgative medicines. Oysters should be given, and a catheter introduced into the Bladder, to draw off the urine, if the Patient is unable to void it.

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When the disease is attended with Plethora, the Head may be shaved, and cold water, or pounded Ice applied to it. If all these remedies be of no service, we must have recourse to Blisters, applied to the upper and lower extremities, and to the neck.



In this low state of the disease, Mustard in the form of Ecataplasma, should be applied to the Soles of the Feet. Electricity, Friction, to the extremitas. Sound and Acute sounds, and lastly, the application of the Actual Camom, to the Neck. If these different remedies, should fail to restore the Patient, we will at least console ourselves with the certainty that no exertion on our part, has been wanting.

The Unfavourable signs of this disease, are, when it attacks Persons under Thirty years of age. Doctor Rush mentions but one case which he cured, under this age. It is mostly fatal when it occurs in children. When the Patient makes an effort to reach his mouth with his hand. When a fever appears late in the disease. When the Pulse is Intermittent, and when the



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Face is pale. It is almost always fatal, when it comes on, without any of the premonitory signs.

The favourable symptoms of Apoplexy, are, Faints, Vomiting, a quick pulse, general perspiration, Palsy on one side &c. A greater number of Persons, recover from Apoplexy brought on by intercession, than from any other cause.

The Prophylactics, are avoiding indigestible food of all kinds, such as, Mince Pies, Dock Pies, &c. Dr. Rush is of opinion that the great number of Apoplexies, which occur about Christmas, may be attributed to the general use of Mince Pies about that period. Temperance in eating and drinking. Changes in the Diet, should be avoided. Moderately stimulating drinks, to Persons, who have been in the habit of drinking Spirituous liquors.



Madeira Wine, with water, should be prefer'd to other  
drinks. For the purpose of removing Giddiness  
Garlic has been used with advantage. Dr. Rush  
in his lecture on this subject, mentions the case of  
a person, who was troubled with giddiness, having  
dream'd a certain Person directed him to take  
two or three cloves of Garlic a day. He awak'd  
made use of this remedy, and was perfectly  
cured. Exercise, this should be gentle and  
constant, either walking or riding. the latter  
mode is preferable; Fatigue from either mode  
is to be carefully avoided. The patient should  
not sleep with his Head low, or on his back, or  
too much on one side. for this purpose the patient  
should lie on a Hard bed, a Matress is very good  
as it will induce him to be restless.



If the suppuration of a discharge from an old sore, has taken place, fumes may very properly be employed, likewise seations in the back of the neck. Avoiding crowded assemblies, and particularly guarding the feet against cold, for this purpose thick stockings, should be worn.

Plasters of Burgundy Pitch, or what Doctor Rush particularly recommends, a Plaster of Shoemakers Way, worn between the foot and the stocking.

Castor oil must be guarded against, any mild emetic purge, may frequently be exhibited.

Having brought the subject of Apoplexy, to a conclusion, it only remains, for me, to tender my warmest thanks to the Professors, in this University, for their noble attention to me. It is my sincerest wish, that they may live to instruct Thousands, who shall feel as grateful, to them as the author of this Essay.

A page from an old, handwritten manuscript. The text is written in a cursive, Gothic-style script. The page is numbered '133' in the bottom right corner. The left edge shows the binding of the book, with several other pages visible.















